

HOUSE BILL 490

By Sontany

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37
and Title 39, relative to the control of habitually
delinquent or unruly juveniles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-119, is amended by deleting the current language in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

A petition alleging facts that bring a juvenile within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, including facts that allege that a juvenile is an unruly child, may be made by any person, including a law enforcement officer, who has knowledge of the facts alleged or is informed and believes that they are true.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-132, is amended by inserting the following as a new subsection (d) thereto:

(d) If a petition alleging that a juvenile is an unruly child was filed by law enforcement, and if the court finds that it is in the best interest of the child, then the court may order that the juvenile and the juvenile's parent or guardian participate in any counseling or other services provided by the petitioning law enforcement agency, if available, which may include counseling services provided by a youth services officer. If the court orders counseling by the law enforcement agency, and if the parent or guardian willfully fails to attend such counseling, then that parent or guardian commits the offense of contributing to the delinquency or unruly behavior of a child pursuant to Section 37-1-156.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.